



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

ARIZONA

Arizona Fast Facts - 2014

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| State's Child Poverty Rate: | 24.3% |
| State's Overall Poverty Rate: | 18.9% |
| StrikeForce State Since: | 2012 |
| Number of StrikeForce Counties: | 15 |
| Total Outreach Events: | 160 |
| Number of Community Partners: | 52 |
| Total USDA Projects: | 3,325 |
| Total USDA Investments: | \$481.5 million |

Contacts

Contact us to be a partner, or to learn more about StrikeForce opportunities:

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Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Arizona Cattle Growers Association
Arizona Department of Agriculture
Arizona League of Cities & Towns
Arizona Public Service
Campesinos Sin Frontera
Cochise College
Native American Tribes
Navajo Nation Dept. of Agriculture
Navajo Nation Dept. of Natural Resources
Salt River Project
Southwest Indian Agricultural Association
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Currently, 85 percent of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. More than one third of rural Americans, and one in four rural children live in poverty. Kids growing up in families earning twice the poverty threshold are nearly three times as likely as other children to have poor health, are more likely to finish two fewer years of school, and are more likely to earn half as much money in their adult lives.

Growing the economy by investing in rural communities and increasing opportunities for families is key to our Nation's future. In 2010, Secretary Vilsack established USDA's StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity to address the specific challenges associated with rural poverty. Since then, StrikeForce teams have collaborated with more than 500 community partners and public entities to bring targeted assistance to rural areas experiencing chronic poverty.

These efforts have invested more than \$16.5 billion to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources across twenty states. In 2015, StrikeForce expanded to include Oklahoma and Puerto Rico. Now, USDA StrikeForce teams will operate in 880 counties in 21 states and Puerto Rico. Each StrikeForce project is a commitment to America's economic future.


StrikeForce At Work

Arizona's StrikeForce efforts concentrate on improving access to healthy, affordable foods in a state with chronic rural poverty, high unemployment, and low food security. One of the biggest challenges is ensuring that communities in need get access to critical services and support. As part of StrikeForce, USDA is partnering with local and regional food activists and organizations to increase awareness of the benefits of and assistance for local and regional food systems. This year, USDA has coordinated and participated in 160 outreach events across the state.



One USDA forum focusing on increasing healthy food access drew a wide spectrum of participants, including farmers markets, farmers, food banks, food assistance organizations, schools, communities and master gardeners. USDA Rural Development, USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, and USDA Food and Nutrition Service were joined by state agencies and Cooperative Extension. Forum participants discussed various strategies for increasing healthy food access across the state.

As a result, Rural Development is considering several community projects supporting farm diversification, facility repairs, distribution equipment, and commodity storage to strengthen the local food system and increase healthy food access for Arizonians in need.

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A map of Arizona showing county boundaries and names. The map is color-coded: blue for counties with no reported cases and red for counties with reported cases. Red counties include Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Yavapai, La Paz, Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz. Blue counties include Yuma, Gila, and Greenlee.

 State
 Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
 Counties

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:
 ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers
 2000 CENSUS TIGER DATA - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
 2010 CENSUS TIGER DATA - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
 USGS National State Boundaries Data set
 NCES - RFS FY2010 School Lunch Participation CORE Data
 From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education
 Statistics: nces.ed.gov/survey/data/index.asp
 USGS/USDA/DOI Data Data Reflecting DR Program Specific Data
 USDA/RD/RIS, RBS, RHS, O&M/CIO Data Sources
 USDAO/CIO/IGEMO Departmental Data Resources
 Housing and Urban Development Data
 Environmental Protection Agency Data

This map includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although these areas are associated with particular tribes and tribes have certain jurisdictional authorities and treaty rights in these areas, many Rural Development investments in these areas only in part benefit American Indians, or in fact may not benefit any American Indians or Tribes. Please contact Rural Development's Native American Coordinator or Rural Development Staff in Oklahoma to verify whether or not particular investments within Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas are indeed investments benefiting American Indians.

MAP PRODUCED BY:
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